



Chippewas of Georgina Island

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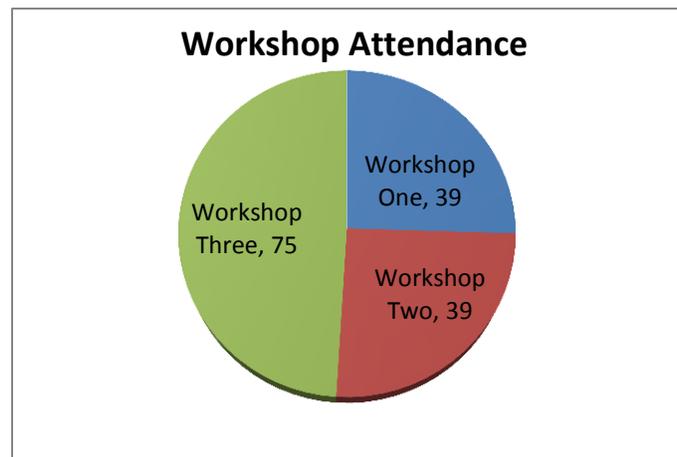
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Project Title: Climate Change Adaptation Planning within the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation Reserve

FINAL REPORT

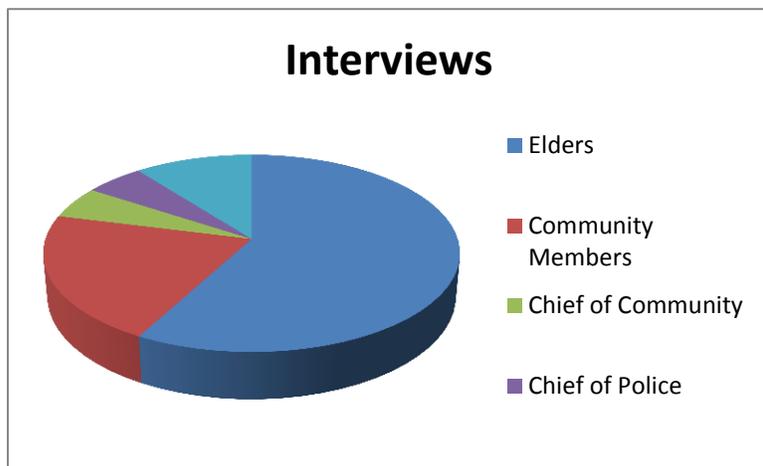
Based on approved proposal 2012- 2013, the following objectives have been achieved. Workshop One, Two and Advisory Committee were developed. The first two community meetings were organized and hosted to 1) inform community members of the project, 2) explain the intentions and process to collect community Traditional Ecological Knowledge pertaining to climate change and impacts, and 3) introduce the plan for recruitment of a Community Advisory Committee. To attract community members Workshop One involved the format being an “Information Session/Bingo”. In doing so, of the three workshops the numbers of attendees grew in the three workshops held, proving to be successful. Workshop one and two involved introducing the project to community members delivering objectives of the project such as: research methods, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Advisory Committee, and Climate Change in comparison to Georgina Island First Nation. In order to deliver these objectives during Workshop One, posters and information packages were created to help explain the project in further detail aside from presenting the information.



The next objective includes developing a vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning framework. This involved defining methods to collect TEK and other information pertinent to climate risks and vulnerabilities. The two methods include: referencing a survey created by Dr. David Pearson Co-Chair of Ontario’s Expert Panel on Climate Change Adaptation and the Toronto

Zoo's Turtle Island Conservation program. Dr. David Pearson's lengthy survey was developed to collect TEK related to changed weather and climate, as well as impacts to various facets of Traditional Ways of Life, communities and Aboriginal culture and is currently being used to support adaptation planning in communities in the Far North of Ontario (Fort Hope, Fort Severn) through the Ontario Regional Adaptation Collaborative. Also the Toronto Zoo's Turtle Island Conservation, which is a program designed to partner with First Nation communities to preserve community knowledge and significant natural and cultural landscapes, recognize and record significant landscapes valued by First Nation communities and to integrate traditional ways of knowing with western science to monitor, protect, respect and restore landscapes.

Another objective achieved is the gathering of Traditional Ecological Knowledge. Once creating the survey referencing the two research methods previously mentioned, a list of interviewees has been created involving Elders, Community Members, Councilors, Chief of Police, and Chief of the Community. A total of nineteen interviews were conducted, the



traditional knowledge embedded within each interviewee has been documented, gathered and summarized to be presented back to the community through a final workshop. Along with presentations, visual communication supports in the form of posters and a take home package including the results help translate the TEK. This forum will allow all members of the community to



Community Members in attendance for final Information Session/Bingo

hear some of the results of the TEK survey, hear about the projections of climate for the area and how that translates into risk.

Thus far the project team is working to improve the base of community capacity development. This involves the collection of Traditional Ecological Knowledge, developing adaptation planning in order to move forward looking at the changes on how to prepare for climate changes in the future.

The project deliverables include:

- Workshop One and Advisory Panel, Advisory Committee
- Information sessions 1, 2 and 3:
 - Information sessions 1:
 - 1) inform community members of the project,
 - 2) explain the intentions and process to collect community Traditional Ecological Knowledge pertaining to climate change and impacts
 - Information session 2:
 - 1) inform community members of the project,
 - 2) explain the intentions and process to collect community Traditional Ecological Knowledge pertaining to climate change and impacts, and 3) introduce the plan for recruitment of a Community Advisory Committee
 - Information Session 3:
 - Present Traditional Ecological Knowledge pertaining to climate change and impacts collected from surveys
 - Present Year Two objectives to community
- Development of vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning framework
- Development of survey and interview list
- Collection of TEK
- Final workshop to present results back to community

Please see attached report titled: “**Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation Planning Framework** – Climate Change Adaptation Planning Within the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation Reserve” for more information pertaining to deliverables.

Building on Year One results, Year Two of this three year project will continue climate change adaptation planning with the Georgina Island First Nation community. The results of the TEK survey and western science will be used to help identify and understand the vulnerabilities and risks within the community that may become worse with climate change. It will also help the project team develop appropriate adaptation actions to address these vulnerabilities and reduce

the risks. This year of the project will also see the development of an Adaptation Planning Team (made up of community members) who will help the project team develop adaptation actions.

The objectives of **Year Two** are as follows:

- **Objective 1:** Conduct vulnerability, risk, and adaptive capacity assessment
- **Objective 2:** Research, collection, and translation of regional climate data for the Lake Simcoe Watershed
- **Objective 3:** Review western science to compare results of Lake Simcoe Vulnerability Assessments to TEK results
- **Objective 4:** Public Engagement: Communicate results of assessments and establish Adaptation Planning Team
- **Objective 5:** Incorporate climate change into Georgina Island subwatershed planning

In conclusion, community members have been engaged throughout the first phase of the project through 2 community meetings, Traditional Ecological Knowledge survey, and the establishment of a Community Advisory Panel. This engagement will continue throughout the remainder of the project. Each of the steps in the process will inherently include training, knowledge transfer and capacity building between the partners in the collaborative as well as with members of the community. The project team will grow its knowledge of adaptation throughout the project. The Community Adaptation Liaison will also grow their knowledge of climate change impacts and adaptation but will also improve skills in adaptation planning processes. The Community Advisory Committee and the Adaptation Planning Team will gain detailed knowledge of local vulnerabilities and risks and will learn how to develop adaptive responses to those risks. Finally, the whole community will remain informed of progress throughout the project